Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh etc. during the last six months;

(b) the amount of agricultural loan to be paid by these farmers and the amount of economic need in respect of each of them;

(c) the reasons of negligence committed by the State Government towards these farmers and the reasons of indifferent attitude on the part of the Central Government; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to stop the incidents of suicide by the farmers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

MSP for Rabi Crops

868. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the remunerative prices hiked recently for Rabi crops like wheat, sesame (Sarson) etc. are very less in comparison to the actual cost of these crops;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a nominal increase;

(c) whether Government propose to increase or revise the remunerative prices of Rabi crops in view of the high costs of inputs of farm products after increase in petro prices; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat at Rs. 640 per quintal covers the A2+FL cost (actual expenses in cash and kind incurred in production+rent paid for leased-in land+imputed value of family labour) in all the major wheat producing State while it falls short of C2 cost (actual expenses incurred in cash and kind, rent for leased-in land imputed value of wages of family labour, rent for owned land and interest on fixed capital) only in Himachal pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The MSP of rapeseed/mustard at Rs. 1700 per quintal adequately

covers the C2 cost of production in all the major rapeseed/mustard producing states.

The main objective of price policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. With a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices for major agricultural commodities. The MSPs are uniform throughout the country. Since MSPs do not necessarily exceed the weighted average C2 cost in respect of all crops/States, the price policy seeks to ensure that the A2+FL cost is covered by MSP in high cost/less endowed States. The C2 cost of production projected by the CACP for major States for 2004-05 ranges from Rs. 487 to Rs. 673 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 1060 to Rs. 1502 per quintal for rapeseed/mustard. The weighted average C2 cost of production works out to Rs. 516 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 1165 per quintal for rapeseed/mustard.

(c) and (d) At present the Government does not have any proposal to revise the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Rabi Crops of 2004-05 Season to be Marketed in 2005-06, which have been announced on 3rd November, 2004. The MSP for What for 2004-05 is Rs. 640 per quintal, which is well above the weighted average C2 cost of production of Rs. 516 per quintal in the case of rapeseed/mustard, the MSP for 2004-05 is Rs. 1700 per quintal compared to the weighted average C2 cost of Rs. 1165 per quintal.

Making NA1S more farmer friendly

869. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minsiter of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1027 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Government plan to make National Agriculture Insurance Scheme more farmer friendly has been materialized;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be announced;